



May 8, 2026

900 W. 190TH ST., #12N
NEW YORK, NY 10040
DARTGALA@GMAIL.COM
WWW.DGALA.ORG

DIRECTORS

Erik Ochsner '93
PRESIDENT

Lee Merkle-Raymond '86
VICE PRESIDENT

Pete Williams '76
SECRETARY

Kamil Walji '03
TREASURER

Diane Berger '90
Jake Hanssen '22
Brian Jacobs '02
Jiachen Jiang '20
Hannah Marr '20
Lyra McKee '15
Kelii Opulauoho '96
Amanda Rosenblum '07
Val Werner '20

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Sarah Burgamy '00
Nick Chamousis '73
Chuck Edwards GR'86
David Eichman '82
Ed Hermance '62
Susi Kandel '00
Caroline Kerr '05
Melanie Pastuck '11
Nancy Voegelé '85

Dartmouth College Board of Trustees
6001 Parkhurst Hall
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Via email to Office.of.the.Secretary@Dartmouth.edu

To the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the board of directors of DGALA, I write for the second time in two years to express our great dismay that the Board of Trustees has once again announced plans to award an honorary degree that celebrates the denigration of LGBTQIA+ individuals. In 2024, it was a degree to an employee of Uganda Christian University, an aggressive denier of LGBTQIA+ rights. In reply to my letter, Liz Lempres phoned me and gave assurances that steps would be taken to avoid such honoraria in the future.

Today, the nominee is Greg Lukianoff, an individual who regularly makes public statements claiming that “freedom of speech” justifies openly denying the basic humanity of transgender people. Thus, Lukianoff claims that anyone has the right to refer to transgender men as women and to transgender women as men. Freedom of speech is an important value in our society, but it should not be weaponized to demean others. And yet, such demeaning is a main Lukianoff talking point.

The first qualification stated on the College's website for an honorary degree recipient is that “Nominees must serve as role models for the graduating class and the greater Dartmouth community.” Is Lukianoff really the model that the Trustees seek to put forth to the Class of 2026 and to the greater Dartmouth community? We very much hope not, and yet honoring Mr. Lukianoff sends just such a deeply discouraging and quite frankly, depressing message.

Sincerely,

Erik Ochsner '93
President

Cc:

Members of the Council on Honorary Degrees
Ann Root Keith
Bob Lasher
Jomysha Delgado Stephen



Liz Lempres

900 W. 190TH ST., #12N
NEW YORK, NY 10040
DARTGALA@GMAIL.COM
WWW.DGALA.ORG

DIRECTORS

Erik Ochsner '93
PRESIDENT

Lee Merkle-Raymond '86
VICE PRESIDENT

Pete Williams '76
SECRETARY

Kamil Walji '03
TREASURER

Diane Berger '90
Jake Hanssen '22
Brian Jacobs '02
Jiachen Jiang '20
Hannah Marr '20
Lyra McKee '15
Kelii Opulauoho '96
Amanda Rosenblum '07
Val Werner '20

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Sarah Burgamy '00
Nick Chamousis '73
Chuck Edwards GR'86
David Eichman '82
Ed Hermance '62
Susi Kandel '00
Caroline Kerr '05
Melanie Pastuck '11
Nancy Voegelé '85